



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW WARNS WEST VIRGINIANS TO BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT TRAVELERS' CHECKS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw is issuing a warning to all West Virginians to beware of counterfeit travelers' checks.

At least one case has come to his attention where a consumer in West Virginia "won" an on-line sweepstakes and she was sent \$3,000 worth of travelers' checks in \$500 denominations. After depositing the travelers' checks into her bank account, the consumer proceeded to spend the money. Within fourteen days, the travelers' checks were returned as counterfeit and the consumer was responsible for the funds that had been spent.

"What the consumer thought she received in the mail were travelers' checks that appeared to be issued by Bank of America and American Express," McGraw stated. "What the consumer actually received were very well constructed counterfeit documents that looked like the real thing."

The fakes were so well designed that they even had a silver seal and hologram. Additionally, they contained water marks and micro printing.

McGraw advises that any scenario that sounds too good to be true probably is. Most people do not win on-line sweepstakes and even if the sweepstakes is legitimate, most contests do not give travelers' checks as prizes.

Since this transaction involved counterfeit documents and crossed interstate lines, the Attorney General has referred this specific case to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If any other consumer feels that they may have fallen victim to this scam or a similar scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline, 1-800-368-8808.

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